

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8-11, 13-16, 22-25, 35, 38-39 and 42 have been amended, while claims 2-3, 20, 26-34 and 40 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 4-19, 21-25, 35-39 and 41-42 remain pending. Applicant respectfully traverses the Office's rejections and, in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, respectfully requests that the Office issue a Notice of Allowance.

§ 101 REJECTIONS

Claims 32-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Nevertheless, for the sole purpose of expediting allowance and without conceding the propriety of the Office's rejection, Applicant has canceled claims 32-34 without prejudice, thus rendering the rejection moot.

§§ 102 AND 103 REJECTIONS

Claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-15 and 22-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0148327 to Satomi et al. (hereinafter, "Satomi").

Claims 3, 9, 16-21, 32-39 and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Satomi in view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0088412 to John et al. (hereinafter, "John").

Claim 41 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Satomi in view John in further view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0147645 to Alao (hereinafter, "Alao").

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections. Nevertheless, Applicant has amended the independent claims in the manner discussed during the interview for the sole purpose of expediting allowance and without conceding the propriety of the Office's rejections. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments render the outstanding rejections moot. During the afore-mentioned interview, Applicant understood the Office to agree. Applicant sincerely thanks the Office for this indication.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1, 4-19, 21-25, 35-39 and 41-42 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and an early notice of allowance. If any issue remains unresolved that would prevent allowance of this case, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office contact the undersigned attorney to resolve the issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

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